

Colinton Community Council

Communications Group report – August 2015

Key matters on the communications front were discussed at an informal meeting of Colinton's Community Councillors in July and at the public meeting on 11th August. Two matters are presented for decision at the meeting on 8th September.

Logo

Extensive feedback and detailed commentary was received in respect of the three logos that were presented for consideration. That feedback was analysed in detail and summarised on a spreadsheet, which was also used to record the "votes" for each draft logo. It was circulated within the Communications sub-group and to the Chair/Vice-Chair. The "celtic" style (No. 3 on the original sheet) was most favoured, with 8 votes. The more "classical" design of No. 1 attracted two votes and No. 2 received a single vote. One Councillor did not respond because he was on holiday. Since then, the two voters for No. 1 have also aligned themselves with variations around No. 3.

On the basis of the voting and following extensive dialogue within the communications sub-group, logo No. 3 was returned to the designer for further work. She was informed of the various comments that had been made. The challenge presented to her was to draw on specific areas of agreement among the range of comments whilst attempting to reconcile areas of vagueness and/or inconsistency.

Two alternatives are now presented for a final decision by Councillors.



Leaflet/flyer

The first draft leaflet was prepared in April and has since undergone a series of changes and updates, though no agreement regarding style or content has yet been achieved. A further revision was made and circulated after the August meeting, a copy of which is attached overleaf.

As has been intimated to Councillors by email, we will lose an opportunity to influence the community's responses to the Boundary Commission's proposals if we fail to communicate with residents by mid-September.

Approval is sought for origination and printing costs for 4,000 A5 130gsm gloss flyers (approx £120) and for distribution to Colinton's households (verbal quotation of £150).

Logo

**Colinton RBS branch closing in November
Uncertainty over village shops
Proposed electoral changes move some streets out
of Colinton**

What does the future hold for Colinton? Do you want to influence what goes on? Are you aged 16 or over?

**Get involved with Colinton Community
Council**

Why not come to your Community Council's public meetings (second Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Colinton Bowling Club)? We'll make you welcome and will value your opinion.

Alternatively, visit your Community Council's website and follow the link 'To **subscribe CLICK HERE**'. We will keep you updated by email and may also (if you agree) get in touch to seek your opinion on key matters affecting our community.

**There's no membership fee. Your only
commitment is to care for Colinton's future.**

www.colintoncc.org.uk

Web and email communications

Our emailing list now has more than 100 addresses – 2.5 times the situation at our August meeting. The improvement mainly resulted from contacting respondents to the Survey Monkey questionnaire regarding the Bridge Road proposals. An email newsletter should be distributed as soon as possible.

Visits to the CCC web site are rising steadily and exceeded 50 per day on one occasion in August. There were 35% more visits to the site in the month from 26th July than in the month from 26th June. 44.7% of visits to the site were from new visitors.

COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Environment Group

Report to CCC Meeting 8 September 2015

Meeting with Craig Dunlop, Parks and Greenspace Officer CEC – 27 August 2015

The Environment Group met with Craig Dunlop to discuss ways in which CCC and CEC could work together to identify environmental initiatives that could be pursued within the prevailing constrained budgetary climate.

The meeting took place in Redford Wood. The group walked through the wood to inspect the development of the wood in terms of its recreational and ecological value. The wood exhibits dense stands of trees and shrubs interspersed by open areas of grassland and ruderal habitat. Constructed paths thread through the wood and these are complemented by a number of informal paths created by the users.

In general, the wood is in very good condition but would benefit from thinning of some woodland blocks. There was evidence of informal use, and little evidence of abuse, of the wood. There was one instance where a multi-stemmed oak tree had been cut back and the lopped timber left lying and damaging adjacent planting. (see image on right)



Spylaw and Campbell Parks were also discussed. Improvement of Spylaw Park arising from a CAA initiative is almost complete. CEC are supporting woodland management work incorporating the improvement of footpaths.

Discussion of possible enhancement of Campbell Park was set in the context of the financial constraints on environmental improvement. Craig Dunlop said that there is little scope for significant works in the park and that investment may extend only to the installation of a vehicle track to the play area to provide maintenance access and a pedestrian path from the pavilion to the play area. Even this would only happen should funds be available.

It is unlikely significant environmental improvements would come about unless there was sufficient public demand to encourage CEC to seek suitable funding streams.

Funds are available for information/interpretation provision within the community and CEC suggested this could cover the installation of an information board for Redford Wood or Campbell Park. The notice boards would be for community use to communicate information on important issues and events such as Community Council meetings.

Cherry Trees on Colinton Road

The Environment Group took the opportunity to raise the matter of the poor condition of the line of cherry trees on Colinton Road. CEC is aware of our concerns as a consequence of previous written submissions and it is proposed that the matter will be addressed but it may take some time to identify a funding source. CEC realise this issue relates to Colinton Road as a whole rather than just the southern element near to Redford Barracks. There is an enthusiasm to address the problem but once again it is a matter of cost. The trees are between the road and the pavement such that replacement planting involves the construction of tree pits to prevent damage to infrastructure or services. Replanting in this way would cost approximately £1300.00 per tree. There is no capital budget for this work.

Overgrown hedge

At the last two CCC meetings, the matter of the footpath near to Citidogs Creche on Woodhall Road being obstructed by an overgrown hedge was discussed. It was reported at the August meeting David Bewsey of CCC had investigated this problem and it appeared the hedge was the responsibility of CEC. David had been in touch with CEC and awaited a reply. It was intended to raise this with Craig Dunlop but before the Redford Wood meeting inspection of the hedge revealed it had been cut back, apparently by the contractor working on the road.

Craig Dunlop revealed the Council do not have responsibility for the hedge. It is the responsibility of the landowner.

Nigel Rudd - Environment Convenor

Secretary's Report for September Colinton Community Council meeting

Dog attacked and killed in Spylaw Public Park

On Saturday 22nd August 2015 a large dog, thought to be a Husky type, attacked and killed a Jack Russell Terrier. The exact circumstances are apparently known to the Police but despite requests for further information, this hasn't been forthcoming. It is therefore not possible for the Community Council to make an informed judgement on the situation. In an email received relating to this incident expressions of concern were made about the control of Dogs in Spylaw Public Park and also on the Water of Leith Walkway. This might suggest that the matter should be brought up at the next Community Safety Action Group meeting on 2nd November 2015.

10th August 2015 Edinburgh Adapts - First Project Workshop

The Edinburgh Adapts project is a joint initiative of the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership and Adaptation Scotland.

This meeting was the first in a series of workshops that will examine what is required to ensure Edinburgh has resilience to meet the effects of climate change and extreme weather events. It comes at a time when there is a budget reduction programme of £107m currently underway.

An Adaption Plan for 2015-2020 is to be published in March 2016 and will look at the long-term needs of the City.

The aims of Edinburgh Adapts are:

- A shared adaptation action plan;
- Increased knowledge and awareness of the need to increase resilience and adapt to climate change;
- An adaptation planning process that can be used by other cities, places and organisations

The project will also support public bodies to demonstrate compliance with legal duties including the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties.

This first meeting set out to:

- Provide an initial introduction to the project, setting out its key aims and objectives
- Outline the predicted changes to our climate and the climate risks likely to impact on Edinburgh
- Gather together the adaptation actions already underway
- Begin the process of developing further adaptive actions
- Develop a vision for a climate ready capital.

The audience was mostly made up of climate activists and sadly there were very few from key areas of the Edinburgh economy.

It is unclear just how valuable this initiative will be considering the lack of input from key stakeholders, but Colinton has suffered in the past from extreme weather events leading to severe flooding. One consideration would be the amount of cut wood in the Bonaly/Braid Burn left following woodland management work in Dreghorn Woods. While there is a Water of Leith Clean-up, it seems few are concerned about the watercourse that did flood Colinton.

David Bewsey, Secretary

Colinton Community Council

Transport Roads And Pathways (TRAP) Report - July 2015

1. Neighbourhood Environment Project (NEP)

A summary of our submissions:-

- a. Continue upgrade of pavement on Bridge Rd (Cuddies Lane steps to Spylaw St).
- b. Upgrade the pavement outside Woodthorpe/Cottage Homes on Redford Rd.

The scoring from officials and councillors for each of our submissions was high, with b. scoring extremely well. This holds up well for at least one our submissions being accepted.

2. 20MPH Program

The 20 MPH program is now being rolled out over the City and although it is not expected to be enforced at this stage, plans are taking shape which could see repeat offenders penalised.

3. Road Repairs

Of the 10 issues reported to CLARENCE in our last report all have been SOLVED, except #181239, which refers to overhanging foliage and we expect the property owner will be notified in due course.

As mentioned in the last report some of feedback given by CLARENCE can be misleading to the public. Therefore, we have arranged to visit the Clarence Contact and Control Centre. This should give us a better understanding of what is needed to improve this facility and fast track repairs etc.

I would again encourage residents to make their own submissions to Clarence and advise Roads subgroup roads@colintoncc@org.uk when there is no satisfactory progress.

Our research into 'FixMyStreet' as an alternative Clarence shows little or no benefit over the City's own initiative.

One of our early initiatives in April as a sub group of CCC was to review the junction Westgarth Ave. and Colinton Rd. Discussions with 'Roads' at SWP resulted in an agreement to review the current markings and explore improvements over safety and any effect upon bus services. The outcome will we hope be available by the next meeting

4. Consolidated Roads and Pavements Issues

After consolidating the Walkabout issues with the TRAPs Schedule (previously circulated) the subgroup agreed that a simple and clearly defined 3 tier structure, would assist focusing on the magnitude, urgency and value of each issue. A working draft is currently being developed and this will be circulated to members for comment in due course. Once approved assistance from the Communicaitons Group will be required to publicise the initiative.

5. General

Winter is our next challenge, and if it is bad we are going to need a body of volunteers (a Snow Team, a community initiative?) who we can call upon to help with the Common Good, if and when things get tough. Think about it! It almost worked on the last big snow in.

Bill Alexander
Convener, TRAP Sub Group